

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT AND STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Status of Claims

Claims 1-5, 8, 11-14, 16, 18-24, 26 and 28 are cancelled.

Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, 17, 25 and 27 are amended.

Claims 6-7, 9-10, 15, 17, 25 and 27 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Kenneth Nigon on 20 November 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

PLEASE CANCEL CLAIMS 15 AND 17.

References Cited

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kim (US Patent No. 6,281,640 B1) discloses a detector (13) that is connected to a switch (14). The switch is on when the light emitting element is off, thus permitting the measurement of ambient light.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6-7, 9-10, 25 and 27 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 6 and 25, the prior art of record fails to teach alone or in combination a signal detecting circuit which irradiates a pulse light from a light emitting element to a windshield of a vehicle, receives a reflected light by a light receiving element, processes the pulse signal from the light receiving element and inputs it to a processing unit in order to control a wiper of the vehicle, comprising, along with the other claimed features, an outside-light component reducing circuit comprising a switch circuit connected to the output side of said current - voltage converter circuit, an outside-light component voltage holding circuit connected to said switch circuit for holding the voltage of said constant outside light component, and an outside-light component voltage - current converter circuit connected to said outside-light component holding circuit for converting the held voltage to an electric current and feeding it back to the input side of said current - voltage converter circuit.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Francis M. LeGasse Jr whose telephone number is (571) 272-9798. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 7:00 am to 5:30 pm E.S.T.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Y. Epps can be reached on (571) 272-2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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